

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An improved lighting apparatus for backlighting a liquid crystal display, the lighting apparatus comprising:

a. one or more a pair of light emitting diode arrays disposed on a plane perpendicular to the plane of the liquid crystal display, each light emitting diode array having a plurality of different groups of like colored light emitting diodes[[;]] , each light entity diode array including both red and non-red light emitting diodes;

b. a switch coupled to the light emitting diode arrays in such a manner that the switch is operable to cause the red light emitting diode to switch on or off without causing the non-red light emitting diodes to switch on or off;

[[b.]] c. light pipes parallel to the plane of the liquid crystal display for transmitting light from said light emitting diode arrays into the plane of said liquid crystal display for providing illumination thereof; and

[[c.]] d. filters disposed between each of the arrays and the light pipes for filtering out infra-red light from the light emitting diodes.

8. (Previously Presented) The lighting apparatus of Claim 7 wherein each light emitting diode array includes different groups of like colored diodes, each group emitting only red green or blue light, and each group emitting a different colored light than any other of the different groups of the light emitting diode array.

9.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for illuminating a liquid crystal display for viewing by a person wearing NVIS-A or NVIS-B night-vision goggles, the steps of the method comprising:

- a. activating an array of light emitting diodes having a plurality of different groups of like colored light emitting diodes adjacent the liquid crystal display;
- b. transmitting light from the light emitting diode array into the plane of the liquid crystal display to illuminate the liquid crystal display;
- c. filtering infra-red light emitted by the array of light emitting diodes before it is transmitted to the liquid crystal display; and,
- d. selectively switching on a first group of like colored light emitting diodes in the array but not all the light emitting diodes in the array if the person is wearing NVIS-A night vision goggles and selectively switching on a second group of like colored light emitting diodes in the array or switching on all the light emitting diodes in the array if the person is wearing NVIS-B night vision goggles.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein switching on a first group of like colored light emitting diodes consists essentially of switching on only green light emitting diodes or only blue light emitting diodes.

17.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The improved lighting apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the filters are adapted for NVIS-B goggles letting a small amount of red light through.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The improved lighting apparatus of Claim [[22]] 7 wherein the switch is coupled to the light emitting diode arrays in such a manner that the switch is also operable to cause a group of the non-red light emitting diodes that emit blue or green light to switch on or off.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein the filtering step further comprises letting a small amount of red light through.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein in the selectively switching step, if NVIS-B goggles are worn by the person, all the light emitting diodes in the array are switched on.

26.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) An improved lighting apparatus for backlighting a liquid crystal display that may be viewed by a person wearing NVIS-A or NVIS-B night vision goggles, the lighting apparatus comprising:

a light emitting diode array having a plurality of different groups of like colored light emitting diodes disposed to back-light the liquid crystal display, the light emitting diode array comprising red light emitting diodes and non-red light emitting diodes;

a switch for addressing only the red light emitting diodes of the light emitting diode array;

a sheet of light pipes; and

a filter disposed between the light emitting diode array and the light pipes for filtering out infra-red light from the light emitting diodes.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[29]] 28 wherein the light emitting diode array comprises blue and green light emitting diodes, and the apparatus further comprises a switch for addressing only the blue light emitting diodes and a switch for addressing only the green light emitting diodes.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the apparatus further comprises a fluorescent light source positioned to transmit light through the sheet of light pipes, the fluorescent light source being positioned and oriented to emit light into the sheet through a side of the sheet other than a side of the sheet into which the array of light emitting diodes emits light.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the apparatus comprises at least two light emitting diode arrays, each diode array having a plurality of different groups of like colored light emitting diodes disposed to back-light the liquid crystal display, wherein the at least two diode arrays are positioned adjacent to different sides of the sheet of light pipes.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[33]] 32 wherein the light pipes are part of a sheet of light pipes, and the apparatus further comprises a fluorescent light source

positioned to transmit light through the sheet of light pipes, the fluorescent light source being positioned and oriented to emit light into the sheet through a side of the sheet other than the sides of the sheet into which the arrays of light emitting diodes emits light.